

PAPERCUT²

PROUDLY PRESENTS THE THIRD
TERRIFYING ISSUE OF THE ALL-NEW...

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

BASED ON THE CLASSIC EC COMICS SERIES



RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO WILLIAM M. GAINES, AL FELDSTEIN,
REED CRANDALL, JOHNNY CRAIG, JACK DAVIS, WILL ELDER, GEORGE
EVANS, GRAHAM INGELS, JACK KAMEN, BERNIE KRIGSTEIN, HARVEY
KURTZMAN, JOE ORLANDO, GEORGE ROUSSOS, MARIE SEVERIN, AL
WILLIAMSON, AND WALLY WOOD.

"A MURDERIN' IDOL"

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WRITER
STEVE MANNION
ARTIST
DIGIKORE
COLOR
MARK LERER
LETTERER



THE CRYPT-KEEPER

"SLABBED"

STEFAN PETRUCHA
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DON HUDSON
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TERROR



PAPERBACK
NO. 3
ALL-NEW!



\$3.95
\$4.95 CAN

TALES FROM THE CRYPT

FEATURING...



THE CRYPT-KEEPER



THE OLD WITCH



THE VAULT-KEEPER



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**A MURDERIN'
IDOL!** AS NOT
SEEN ON TV!



IT'S A RUTHY TENEMENT
PLAT' A WANNABE SUPER-
STAR HAS OVERLEAF

I'M HERE AT
THE FIRST DAY OF
TRYOUTS FOR NEXT
SEASON'S EDITION OF
POPSTAR IDOL--

OH, NO! WHY
DIDN'T YOU WAKE
ME UP? YOU KNEW
I WANTED TO BE
THERE, SLODIN!

--AS YOU CAN
SEE, THE CROWD IS
IMMENSE! MANY HAVE
BEEN IN LINE FOR DAYS
TO GET THEIR CHANCE TO
AUDITION FOR THE
HIT SHOW!



OH, JAYSAN! LOOK
HOW MANY PEOPLE
ARE THERE! YOU
WOULDN'T HAVE
A CHANCE OF
GETTING IN!

I'VE GOT TO TRY! THIS
IS MY BIG CHANCE TO
BE A SUPERSTAR!



I KNOW I'VE GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO
BE THE NEXT IDOL! EVEN THOUGH I
HAVEN'T SUNG PROFESSIONALLY, I'VE
GOT THE LOOKS, THE MOVES AND
AN INCREDIBLE SINGING
VOICE!

MY MOM
TOLD ME
SO!

YOU
SHOULD BE
LOOKING FOR
A REAL JOB
INSTEAD OF
LIVING IN YOUR
FANTASY
WORLD!





DEJECTED BUT DETERMINED,
THE POTENTIAL POPSTAR
WANDERS BACK HOME...

DARN IT! I'M GONNA GET
IN LINE LATER TONIGHT TO
MAKE SURE I GET IN! I'D
SELL MY SOUL TO GET
ON THAT SHOW!



PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS THOUGHTS, HE
DOESN'T NOTICE A LARGE BOOK BLOCKING
HIS PATH AND STUMBLES OVER IT...



WHAT TH---? WHERE DID
THAT DARN THING COME
FROM?



BOOK OF
DREAM FULFILLMENT?
THIS THING LOOKS
ANCIENT AS
HELL!





COPYING THE ARCANIC FIGURES FROM THE BOOK, HE CONTEMPLATES HIS NEXT STEP...

I'M SUPPOSED TO GIVE A BLOOD OFFERING TO SUMMON A DEMON TO GRANT MY WISH. B-BUT I CAN'T KILL SOMETHING... OR CAN I? I'VE GOT TO WIN ON POPSTAR IDOL!



PLACING A MOUSETRAP ON THE RUNE, HE LOADS IT WITH HEAPS OF PEANUT BUTTER...

GLORIA'S BEEN BUBBLING ME ABOUT GETTING RID OF THE MICE IN THE APARTMENT, SO I'LL MAKE HER WISH COME TRUE, TOO!



HIDING IN THE SHADOWS, JAYSAN DOESN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG...

HA! IT WORKED! NOW WHAT?!



BEFORE HIS ASTONISHED EYES, THE DEAD MOUSE IS CONSUMED IN FLAMES AND A STRANGE SMOKE RISES WITH AN OFFENSIVE SULFURIC SMELL!







AND TRUE TO THE DEMON'S PROMISE, JAYSAN AUDITIONS BEFORE SYLMON BOWELL, APAULA O'DOUL, AND RENELL JAXON!





PULLING FREE FROM JAYSAN, SLODIA
SLIPS ON SOME SOAPY WATER AND...



OH NO! SLODIA!
ARE YOU OKAY?



THERE IS NO RESPONSE AS HER
LIFELESS BODY STARTS TO IGNITE
ON TOP THE DEMONIC SYMBOLS!



A BIGGER
DEMON!

YOU
SUMMONED ME?
WHAT IS YOUR
WISH?





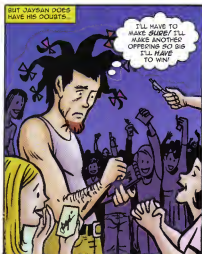






BUT JAYSAN DOES
HAVE HIS DOUBTS.

I'LL HAVE TO
MAKE SURE I'LL
MAKE ANOTHER
OFFERING SO BIG
I'LL HAVE
TO WIN!



THE NEXT DAY AT REHEARSAL.

EVEN THOUGH
IT'S EVERY MAN FOR
HIMSELF, GOOD LUCK,
JAYSAN! I--WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

ER, I'M
AN ARTIST IN MY
SPARE TIME AND THIS
IS A GOOD LUCK
SYMBOL I LIKE
TO DRAW!



HEY, WHATEVER! IT'S
KINDA ODD, BUT IF IT
WORKS FOR YOU--



WHOMP!

ACCKK!







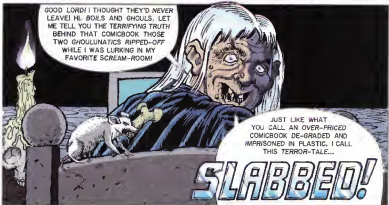


ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE FINAL SHOW, JAYSAN ARRANGES A MEETING WITH SYLWYN.











NO! PLEASE!
PLEASE! I'M
BEGGING YOU!

DEDDICK! GIVE
IT BACK! IT'S MY
FAVORITE, MOST
VALUABLE COMIC
EVER!

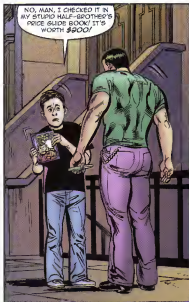
BEWARE EVIL-
DOERS! WE'RE
COMING FOR
YOU! THEN
IT'LL BE
JUST US!

WHAT COMIC?
I DON'T SEE ANY
COMIC! YOU MUST
BE DREAMING!



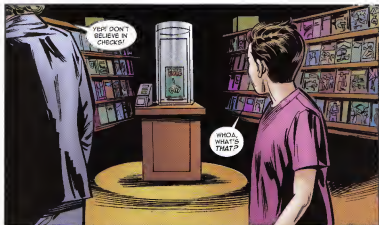




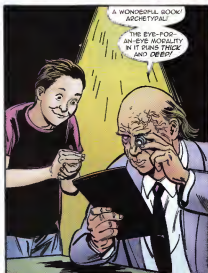


























IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
THAT WAS THE OLD
MAN'S FACE!



IT'S SOME KIND
OF TRICK!



THAT'S NOT A WALL!
IT'S SOME KIND OF
PLASTIC!





I MUST BE
DREAMING!

ANY SECOND
NOW, I'M GOING
TO WAKE UP! I
KNOW IT!

SOMEONE
WAKE ME UP!

AFTER A LIFETIME OF COLLECTING
HEROES, I FINALLY FIGURED IT WAS
TIME TO COLLECT A FEW VILLAINS
TO BALANCE THINGS!

IT'D NO
IDEA HOW EASY
IT WOULD BE!

HA-HA-HA-
HA!



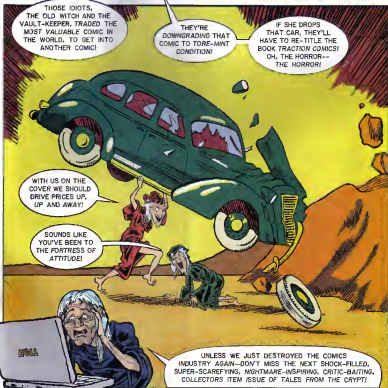
THE END



YOU KNOW, KIDDIES, IT'S JUVENILE DELINQUENTS SUCH AS DERRICK THAT GIVE COMICS A REALLY BAD NAME!

OH, NO! WHAT'S THIS?!

HELL



THOSE IDIOTS, THE OLD WITCH AND THE VAULT-KEEPER, TRADED THE MOST VALUABLE COMIC IN THE WORLD, TO GET INTO ANOTHER COMIC!

THEY'RE DOWNGRADING THAT COMIC TO TORE-MINT CONDITION!

IF SHE DROPS THAT CAR, THEY'LL HAVE TO RE-TITLE THE BOOK TRACTION COMICS! OH, THE HORROR--- THE HORROR!

WITH US ON THE COVER WE SHOULD DRIVE PRICES UP, UP AND AWAY!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN TO THE FORTRESS OF ATTITUDE!

UNLESS WE JUST DESTROYED THE COMICS INDUSTRY AGAIN--DON'T MISS THE NEXT SHOCK-FILLED, SUPER-SCAREFYING, NIGHTMARE-INSPIRING, CRITIC-BAITING, COLLECTORS ITEM ISSUE OF TALES FROM THE CRYPT!



Salutations, you CRAZED CONSUMERS of PUTRID PAPER CUTZ PUBLICATIONS! Time once again for our VICIOUS VERBAL exchanges, regarding our previous phantasmaGORYcal issues!

But first, here's the SHOCKING results of the voting on *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #2! "THE TENANT" by Neil Kleid and Steve Mannion just narrowly beat out "THE GARDEN" by Fred Van Lente and Mr. Essex as BEAST, er, best story!

For any of you FOOLISH FRIGHT-FANS who missed our first two TERROR-FILLED issues, I've got good news for you! Our GREEDY publishers have rushed paperback and hardcover books into print collecting most of those stories — they're cleverly called *TALES FROM THE CRYPT* #1 "Ghouls Gone Wild!" and it's on sale now at BOOKSTORES everywhere! There's even an all-new TERROR-TALE by Don McGregor and Sho Murase called "RUNWAY ROADKILL!" that's to DIE for!

Subject: Tales from the Crypt!

It's hard to put into words exactly how happy I was to discover that PaperCutz is publishing new TFIC comics (and I am NOT a comic book person). I was always a huge fan of the show, but have never had the good fortune to get my hands on one of the comics. So I settled for perceiving the guys at my local comic store (monthly) for anything similar. I managed to find a compilation of "The House of Mystery," but hungered for more. Today, I got it. And I'm stoked I am dying (ha ha) for the next issue to hot the stands. Thanks so much for resurrecting this awesome comic. I'll be with you guys till the end.

Natalie Vazquez,
Puerto Rico

Just wait the end, Natalie? What kind of fickle fan are you?

Subject: New Tales From the Crypt Comics

Hallo, I am writing in regards to your new Tales From the Crypt comicbook series. While I appreciate your efforts to revive such a quality publication, I feel that you are going about it incorrectly. You say that you want to keep true to the original, yet you've toned down the content to such a degree, that it doesn't even resemble the horrors from half a century ago. Even though it may seem somewhat tame now, back in the day, Tales from the Crypt was considered very edgy and gory. Had it not been for the atmosphere at the time, it would have been even more visceral! Now, standards are such that you can get away with putting a lot more violent content in comicbooks. By toning down the blood, you are not only abiding by standards that are over half a century old, but you are being less gory than even the original comics were!

I also feel that you do not understand the way Tales from the Crypt "shock" endings work. You acknowledge and utilize shock at the end, but not in the way they were intended. You can't just have some random twist at the end, it has to have a social message to it (a "perisidy"). Additionally, the end is typically met with a bloody surprise. This final panel is met with a narrative box that describes the gore-shock in great detail, which gives the reader a better description and creates a sense of uneasiness.

Now, we have to talk about the artwork. I don't expect you to mimic the realistic noir-esque panels of the original to a tee, but at least give it a shot. Your artwork in these new comics doesn't even look remotely realistic. It looks like something out of a damn Nickelodeon cartoon!

In closing, I would like to ask you to please reconsider your new vision of these comics or discontinue them and let the crypt rest peacefully while you concentrate on Nancy Drew or something.

Nathan Wakefield

I feel your pain, Nathan. Unfortunately, I'm stuck with Sallcrap as editor!

Subject: TFC Stories

I've read some of the comments about the art seeming like it's geared more towards young children. And while I somewhat agree with that... the stories are quite good and very mature! I thought that they were very nostalgic of the classic EC Tales from The Crypt comics. In the last issue I really enjoyed "The Garden," it kept me guessing all the way 'til the end. But "The Tenant" was definitely my favorite. It really reminded me of the typical 'Poetic Justice' that was often dealt from the old Tales from The Crypt stories.

CAN'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!!

Jeremy Seth Brauner
Tustin, CA

No need to wait, Jeremy—it's here!

Subject: smiling to you, dear

My dear friend, I am poetry and passionate Ukrainian woman, but I am lonely. My heart dies without love as beautiful flower dies without water. I need to love and to be beloved as rose needs to be watered every day. I need kisses and love as no flower can't live without sunny rays. Waiting for your response.

Joel

Get back to me after you die, Joel! (Got to get a new spam-filter!)

Subject: Thanks for renaming the greatest comic of all time.

Hi, I've been a fan of Tales from the Crypt for a long time now. Too young for the initial run, but I read a bunch of the reprints, and watched the show. I just finished the new issue #2, and have to say the new comics completely and totally lived up to the originals, the stories are just as creepy, and the art is just completely fabulous. My only complaint is that there is no possibility to get a subscription to "TFC." Just leaving my opinion, and asking if you are going to also revive the "Vault of Horror" and "Haunt of Fear"? Thanks,

A Fan

An interesting query, Al! What do the rest of you EC Fan-Addicts think?

As for subscRYPtions, just send us a check or money order, in US funds only, for \$24.00 for a one-year, six-issue subscription to TALES FROM THE CRYPT. Subscriptions begin with the next issue published after we receive your order.

Subject: Keep up the good work!

Hey, I'd just like to say that I LOVE YOUR TALES FROM THE CRYPT COMICS!! I still love the originals, but these are easier for me to read (I'm 13). The artwork is semi-good in "The Garden" though. My favorite comic so far was in issue #2 called "The Tenant." Keep up the terror-ific work! Thank you to the people and my favorite dead-wood star, The Crypt-Keeper! I am in love with the HBO series but most defiantly the comics! I grew up with them since my parents are horror fiend-atics! Love the comics and love the gore!

Maggot Kisses,
Lesley

Thanks, Lesley! If we haven't rotted your young mind yet, maybe we will next issue!

That's all for now! Don't miss TALES FROM THE CRYPT #4—featuring virtual madness by Neil Kleid and Chris North entitled "Extra Life" and a prescient preachy by Dun McGregor, James Romberger and Marguerite Van Cook called "Crystal Clear!"

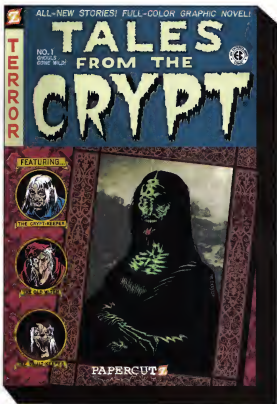
And keep those emails and letters coming, kiddies! Tell us what you thought of this teratoid, yet transcendental third issue. Send your letters to:

The Crypt-Keeper's Corner
40 Exchange Place, Suite 1308
New York, NY 10005

Or email your critical commentaries to our egomaniacal editor at: sallcrap@papercrete.com.

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YOU'VE PHONED!
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